

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for recording still picture data of ~~N~~ stillplural still pictures with each still picture stored in a separate file, N-files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing ~~N-stillplural still~~ picture data of said ~~N-stillplural still~~ pictures as a still picture group, onto a storage medium, ~~where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one,~~ wherein said still picture group management information includes time information and is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said time information of said still picture group management information includes only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of a still picture, with said first recording time stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof;

wherein the method is carried out at least in part by a hardware processing unit.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of said still picture, with said last recording times stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

3. and 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium

storing thereon a program for controlling a computer to record still picture data of ~~N~~ plural still pictures with each still picture stored in a separate file, N files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing ~~N-still~~ plural still picture data of said ~~N-still~~ plural still pictures as a still picture group onto a storage medium, ~~where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one,~~ wherein said still picture group management information includes time information and is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said time information of said still picture group management information includes only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture

in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said program comprising operations for:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of a still picture, with said first recording time stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium according to claim 5, wherein said program comprises operations for:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of said still picture, with said last recording times stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of recording still picture data of ~~N-stillplural~~ still pictures with each still picture stored in a separate file, N-files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing ~~and N~~ stillplural still picture data of said N-stillplural still pictures as a still picture group onto

a storage medium, ~~where said N is an integer number equal to or greater than one,~~
wherein said still picture group management information includes time information
and is provided separately from any still picture management information containing
management information for each still picture, said method comprising:

recording, as said time information of said still picture group management
information, only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-
photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-
taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-
photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-
taking device;

wherein the method is carried out at least in part by a hardware processing
unit.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said storage
medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said still
picture data of said ~~N~~ plural still pictures and said recording still picture group
management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

9. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium
according to claim 5, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said
program comprising an operation for recording said still picture data of said ~~N~~
~~still~~ plural still pictures and said recording still picture group management information
in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said still picture data of said ~~N still~~plural still pictures and said recording still picture group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

11. - 13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for recording picture data recordings ~~still picture data of N still pictures~~each stored in a separate file, ~~N files~~, respectively, and for recording picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information for managing ~~N still~~plural picture data recording files~~still picture data of said picture data recordings~~N still pictures as a picture data recording~~still picture~~ group, onto a storage medium, where ~~N is an integer number equal to or larger than one~~, wherein said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information is provided separately from any picture data recording~~still picture~~ management information containing management information for each picture data recording~~still picture~~, and said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information includes a recording time data which specify the recording times, all of the recording times in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information consist of only a first recording time at which ~~the still picture data of an earliest-photographed picture data recording~~still picture in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which ~~the still picture data of a latest-photographed~~ picture data recording~~still picture~~ in said picture

~~data recording~~~~still picture~~ group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

comparing a recording time of said ~~still picture data~~ of a picture data recording~~still picture~~, with said first recording time stored in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information corresponding to the picture data recording~~still picture~~ group belonging to said picture data recording files~~still picture data~~; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof as an updated first recording time of the picture data recording group;

wherein the method is carried out at least in part by a hardware processing unit.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, comprising:

comparing a recording time of said picture data recording ~~still picture data~~ of said ~~still picture~~, with said last recording times stored in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information corresponding to the picture data recording~~still picture~~ group belonging to said picture data recording files~~still picture data~~; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof as an updated last recording time of the picture data recording group.

16. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage

medium storing thereon a program for controlling a computer to record picture data recordings~~still picture data of N still pictures~~ each stored in a separate file, N files, respectively, and for recording picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information for managing N~~still~~plural picture data recording files~~still picture data of~~ said picture data recordings~~N still pictures~~ as a picture data recording~~still picture~~ group onto a storage medium, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information is provided separately from any picture data recording~~still picture~~ management information containing management information for each picture data recording~~still picture~~ picture, and said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information includes a recording time data which specify the recording times, all of the recording times in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information consist of only a first recording time at which ~~the still picture data of an earliest-~~photographed picture data recording~~still picture~~ in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which ~~the still picture data of a latest-~~photographed picture data recording~~still picture~~ in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said program comprising operations for:

comparing a recording time of said picture data recording ~~still picture data of a still picture~~, with said first recording time stored in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information corresponding to the picture data recording~~still picture~~ group belonging to said picture data recording files~~still picture data~~; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof as an updated first recording time of the picture data recording group.

17. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said program comprises operations for:

comparing a recording time of said picture data recording ~~still picture data of said still picture~~, with said last recording ~~times~~ time stored in said picture data recording ~~still picture~~ group management information corresponding to the picture data recording ~~still picture~~ group belonging to said picture data recording files ~~still picture data~~; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof as an updated last recording time of the picture data recording group.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of recording picture data recordings ~~still picture data of N still pictures~~, each stored in a separate file, ~~N files~~, respectively, and for recording picture data recording ~~still picture~~ group management information for managing and ~~N still~~ plural picture data recording files ~~still picture data~~ of said picture data recordings ~~N still pictures~~ as a picture data recording ~~still picture~~ group onto a storage medium, ~~where said N is an integer number equal to or greater than one~~, wherein said picture data recording ~~still picture~~ group management information is provided separately from any picture data recording ~~still picture~~ management

information containing management information for each picture data recording~~still~~
~~picture~~, said method comprising:

recording, as part of said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group
management information, a recording time data which specify the recording times, all
of the recording times in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management
information consist of only a first recording time at which ~~the still picture data of an~~
earliest-photographed picture data recording~~still picture~~ in said picture data
recording~~still picture~~ group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last
recording time at which ~~the still picture data of a latest-photographed~~ picture data
recording~~still picture~~ in said picture data recording~~still picture~~ group was recorded
last by the picture-taking device;

wherein the method is carried out at least in part by a hardware processing
unit.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said
storage medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said
picture data recording files~~still picture data~~ of said picture data recordings~~N still~~
~~pictures~~ and said recording picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management
information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

20. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage
medium according to claim 16, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and
where said program comprising an operation for recording said picture data
recording files~~still picture data~~ of said picture data recordings~~N still pictures~~ and said

recording picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said picture data recording files~~still picture data~~ of said picture data recordings~~N-still pictures~~ and said recording picture data recording~~still picture~~ group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

22. – 24. (Canceled)